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ABSTRACT

The rise in the American divorce rate since the early 1960's emphasizes the need to examine the factors associated with adjustment to marital separation. The impact of the legal system upon post-separation adjustment in Pennsylvania, which has adversary divorce statutes, is explored with 205 individuals, separated 26 months or less. Satisfaction with the legal system is significantly greater when either the reported relationship between the lawyer and the separated individual or the reported feelings toward the decisions in the settlement problems index, the economic issues, are more positive. Those respondents most highly satisfied with the legal system were more likely to report better adjustment to the separation if they had not been encouraged by the lawyer to create an adversary relationship with their former spouse than if they had been encouraged to create an adversary relationship. Also, the fewer the number of instrumental functions, such as child issues, with which the respondent is involved, the better the reported adjustment to the separation. Divorce statutes based on an adversary model encourage collusion and do not enhance adjustment to a new life situation. Therefore, the present adversary divorce statutes may not reflect the current custody, economic, or property issues of marriage and divorce. (Author)

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Satisfaction With the Legal System and Adjustment to Marital Separation*

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Satisfaction With the Legal System and Adjustment to Marital Separation

ABSTRACT

The rise in the American divorce rate since the early 1960's emphasizes the need to examine the factors associated with adjustment to marital separation. The focus of this paper is the impact that the legal system has on post-separation adjustment in Pennsylvania, which has adversary divorce statutes. Two hundred five individuals, separated 26 months or less, completed in-depth interviews about their marriage, its dissolution, and the aftermath. Multiple regression analysis and Pearson correlation coefficients were used to analyze the data. The data suggest that satisfaction with the legal system is significantly greater when either the reported relationship between the lawyer and the separated individual or the reported feelings toward the decisions in the settlement problems index, the economic issues, are more positive. Those respondents most highly satisfied with the legal system were more likely to report better adjustment to the separation if they had not been encouraged by the lawyer to create an adversary relationship with their former spouse than if they had been encouraged to create an adversary relationship. The data also suggest that the fewer the number of instrumental functions, such as child issues, with which the respondent is involved, the better the reported adjustment to the separation. Multiple regression analysis revealed that the expressive and instrumental indexes significantly contributed to the scales Life Satisfaction, Rosenberg Self-Esteem, and Bradburn and Caplovitz Affect Balance in measuring adjustment to separation for both respondents with and respondents without children. It was concluded that divorce statutes based on an adversary model encourage collusion and do not enhance adjustment to a new life situation. Therefore, the present adversary divorce statutes may not reflect the current custody, economic, or property issues of marriage and divorce.

During the early 1960's, divorce rates began to climb. The rate of divorce more than doubled from 1960 to 1977 (U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Monthly Vital Statistics Report, 1978). Current projections of divorce trends estimate that more than one-third of first marriages among recently married Americans are likely to end in divorce (Glick & Norton, 1976). In addition, more than a third of those who obtain one divorce and remarry are likely to obtain a second divorce. The addition to these statistics of married couples who separate but never divorce suggests that more than two-fifths of all recent American marriages will be disrupted by divorce or separation (Glick & Norton, 1976).

The rise in the American divorce rate since the early 1960's has created some concern among professionals, and considerable interest in the implications of this phenomenon. One must acknowledge that as more and more Americans are separated or are obtaining divorces, more individuals must undergo the adjustments associated with marital separation. Raschke (1974) found the divorcees who had experienced the least amount of post divorce adjustment stress were those who had best adapted to a new lifestyle. Hence, the problem of determining what factors affect adjustment to a new life situation becomes extremely important not only for those persons experiencing the separation, but also for those with whom they interact.

The dissolution of marriage in America is a growing phenomenon which often compounds misery, encourages deceit, and accentuates guilt. The administration of justice is centrally involved with these personal feelings. The present study reports data from a larger project concerning adjustment to marital separation. Specifically, the focus of this research is on the impact that the legal system has on post-separation adjustment. Separation, rather than divorce, is designated the primary sampling criterion, since separation was considered the more critical social-psychological event. This study was conducted in Pennsylvania, which has a traditional "adversary" divorce law requiring that one spouse specify

a "ground" and then demonstrate in a hearing that the divorce should be granted to him or her as the wronged party in the marriage. The study makes no attempt to compare the impact of "fault" and "no-fault" divorce laws, but will provide insight into the effects of adversary (fault) divorce statutes on the individuals involved in a marital dissolution.

ADJUSTMENT TO MARITAL SEPARATION AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Marriage and divorce laws are one means by which the government regulates sexual relations, childbearing, childrearing, and economic support among its citizens. Making divorce laws more restrictive has had little impact on the trend toward divorce (Abel, 1973). Earlier studies have found little relationship between statutory grounds for divorce and the actual causes of marital breakup (Harmsworth & Minnis, 1955; Mowrer, 1924; Stetson & Wright, 1975). Nevertheless, legislators continue to write laws and reform policies expecting that such action will affect social interaction and regulate the behavior of individuals (Virtue, 1956).

A survey of the recent trend in reform in divorce law reveals disagreement as to the impact of either strict or liberal divorce laws on the incidence of divorce. Some claim that strict laws have failed to restrict the increasing divorce rate because those seeking a divorce have been able to manipulate the laws and the legal system (Blake, 1962). Rheinstein (1971) argued that perjury, falsification of evidence, and undue animosity and hardship have resulted from the present adversary divorce system found in some states. Thus, there is controversy regarding the effect of the laws and the legal system on the state of divorce.

The purpose of this research is to examine the impact of the legal system, one of the institutions with which a separated individual is confronted, on the separated or divorced person. Although not all separated individuals decide to

divorce, most separated persons come into contact with the legal system well before the separation agreement or divorce is decreed. Once an individual has made the decision to file for a divorce or establish a separation agreement, one of the first contacts usually is with the lawyer who may represent him or her in the divorce proceding or with related matters. Therefore, interaction with the legal system may be the first of many new experiences with which the separated person must cope.

If one understands the result of the process of interaction between the separated individual and the legal system, legal consumers as well as professionals may have additional information about some important factors in the adjustment to the dissolution of marriage. Such information could be particularly useful to marriage and family counselors and lawyers.

This study, then, attempts to answer the following questions: (1) How does the lawyer influence his or her client's satisfaction with the legal system and subsequent adjustment to marital separation? (2) How do the factors contributing to the legal situation affect the level of satisfaction with the legal system for the separated individual? (3) How does the present adversary system in Pennsylvania influence the ability of people to negotiate adequately the system and adapt to new demands in their lives?

THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF LEGAL FACTORS

Previous research in the area of family development has led to the identification of several sets of independent variables which will be investigated in this research. Social scientists believe that the family has certain functions upon which its survival depends (Broderick, 1968). These functional tasks are called functional requirements. The functional requirements of the family are derived from the fact that (1) no group can survive if it does not maintain a minimum level of order and morale among its members (expression and control of human feel-

ings); and (2) no group can survive if it cannot manage its resources such as economic issues in a way as to do the work necessary to support its material needs to keep the group operating.

The second functional requirement mentioned is commonly called instrumental because the tasks are focused on getting the work of the group done. Members of the family must negotiate a policy which will assure the accomplishment of the required work with a small amount of conflict and the least amount of failure. Included within the instrumental functioning is finding financial security. The first set of factors to be considered in the present study are instrumental characteristics involved in the separation or divorce procedures. These characteristics represent the economic issues decided by the legal system. The variables include satisfaction with the custody arrangements; custody responsibility; satisfaction with child support arrangements; satisfaction with support payments; the stability of income; and satisfaction with the division of property arrangement. These instrumental characteristics will be used to develop an estimate of settlement problems index.

It is postulated that these economic variables of the settlement problems index will affect the instrumental functioning of the family. If the family has little or inconsistent financial security, it is speculated that the amount of conflict as well as feelings of failure within the family will be enhanced. In turn, these conflicts as well as feelings of failure can't help but hinder the work and functioning of the family. Therefore, the kinds of decisions made in the legal system regarding these variables, as well as the ultimate functioning of these decisions, most likely will influence not only the respondent's report on satisfaction with the legal process, but also their level of adjustment to the separation.

The functional requirement related to expression and control of human feel-

ings is called expressive functioning. Each family must maintain the morale of its members such that they will want to stay together. This loyalty and commitment extends to family ideals and values. These values become one of the chief stabilizing influences in the family. When the relationship between the husband and wife is rift with emotional contradictory turmoil, or the couple's interactions with outside contacts such as their lawyer is conflict ridden, there undoubtedly are different ramifications for the separation and divorce procedures than if no conflict were present.

The second group of factors considered in the present study are the expressive characteristics involved in the separation or divorce. These characteristics represent the adversary relationship between the husband and wife and the relationship between the respondent and his or her lawyer. The variables in the adversary relationship index are: whether aggravating the spouse was advised by the lawyer; whether the lawyer told the respondent to let checks bounce, not pay the bills, not talk to their spouse, take money out of the savings, or move out of the house; whether the respondent or their former spouse had to exaggerate the problems in order to get a separation agreement or divorce; whether the respondent had to lie or trump up statements in the hearing to make sure the hearing turned out right; and whether the divorce was contested or not. The lawyer relationship index includes: whether the lawyer ever used delaying tactics to increase the respondent's legal fees; if dealings with lawyers made the relationship with the respondent's former spouse better or worse; whether the respondent consulted more than one lawyer; and if the respondent felt their lawyer's fees were reasonable or outrageous.

The adversary relationship index and the lawyer relationship index will test the relationship between the expressive functioning of the separated individual and his or her level of satisfaction with the legal system. It is speculated

that the kind of interpersonal relationship developed with the lawyer and encouraged between the husband and wife affects not only the respondent's reported satisfaction with the legal system, but also their ultimate adjustment to the separation. If the respondent has just completed a harrowing and negative period of interaction with his or her former spouse, or if the interactions between the respondent and his or her lawyer were conflictual, most likely the respondent's report on satisfaction with the legal process, as well as their adjustment to the separation, will be affected.

MEASUREMENT

In addition to testing for the existence of a relationship between satisfaction with the legal system and the independent variables settlement problems index, adversary relationship index, and lawyer relationship [discussed in the section entitled "conceptual framework of legal factors"] it was also of interest whether a relationship exists between the respondent's adjustment to the separation and these three indexes. Therefore, three measures were used as indicators of adjustment.

The first scale measures satisfaction with life. The question asked, "Now we'd like to know how satisfied you are with certain things in your day-to-day life. Please pick the choice which best describes how satisfied you are with [then listed sequentially] the work you do, where you live, your way of life, the things you do for enjoyment, and your health." The choices consisted of extremely satisfied, somewhat satisfied, and not satisfied. Cronbach's coefficient alpha was obtained for the three adjustment scales in order to evaluate their reliability (Cronbach, 1951). Cronbach's alpha reliability for this scale was .71 in the present sample.

A second scale used to assess adjustment, which measured self-esteem, was adapted from Rosenberg (1965). Persons were asked in this question to state the

extent to which they agreed or disagreed with a number of items such as "I feel I have a number of good qualities." Cronbach's alpha reliability for the scale was .87 in the present sample.

The third index of adjustment was adapted from Bradburn and Caplovitz (1965). It measures a variety of positive and negative feelings along with the frequency of their occurrence. For example, respondents were asked how often during the past week they felt "Particularly excited or interested in something." Responses ranged from "never" to "often." Cronbach's alpha reliability for this scale was .77 in the present sample.

Two dependent variables were used to measure the satisfaction the respondents were expressing concerning the decisions made by the legal system. In order to test the relationship between satisfaction with the instrumental functions and the reported satisfaction with the legal system, the following question was used to operationalize the dependent variable, satisfaction with the legal system, "How satisfied are you with the job your lawyer did concerning legal matters? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?" In order to test the relationship between reported satisfaction with the legal system with the expressive functions, the dependent variable satisfaction with the legal system was operationalized with the following question, "Thinking about the things that lawyers can help you with besides legal matters, such as providing information or emotional support, would you say your lawyer was extremely helpful, somewhat helpful, or not helpful at all?"

In accord with the conceptual framework underlying the legal factors, the following two general statements are formed: 1. Satisfaction with the legal system is a function of the instrumental and expressive functioning; and 2. Adjustment to the separation is a function of both instrumental and expressive functioning plus satisfaction with the legal system.

THE SAMPLE AND DATA COLLECTION

The sample consisted of 50 (24 percent) separated persons and 155 (76 percent) divorced persons. Forty-four percent (N=91) of the sample was male and 56 percent was female (N=114). The age range of the respondents was from 20 to 67, with a mean age of 32.6 years. For both the respondent and his or her spouse, the mean level of education was 14 years. The sample had a mean income range of $5,000 to $9,999 at the time of the interview. The mean length of marriage was 9 years, with a range of 4 months to 45 years. There was a total of 279 children in the 128 cases involving children (including the adult children of older respondents), while 38 percent of the respondents were childless.

The data, collected during the spring of 1977, consist of in-depth, structured interviews focusing on the social, psychological, and economic adjustments of males and females who had experienced a marital separation within the 26 months preceding the interview, whether or not they were divorced. Non-probability, purposive sampling techniques were used. The population from which the sample was drawn consisted of all those separated persons in Centre County, Pennsylvania, whose separation had taken place between January, 1975, and March or April of 1977. The selection and location of individuals was accomplished through various methods. Feature articles describing the project were placed in several local newspapers. The purpose of these articles was to alert the community about the study, and to attempt to set a tone for the study which might elicit cooperation and better response rates than is customary for research on this topic. This strategy proved to be a most helpful technique for increasing response rates, since most of the respondents had read about the study and "felt it was legitimate" as a result. Similarly, letters were sent to all attorneys in the county informing them of the study, and the domestic relations office staff was contacted for cooperation. These contacts, and calls in response to the article, produced a few respondents.

The primary method for obtaining participants involved procurement of names and addresses of those who had recently separated or divorced, from public documents in the county courthouse. A team from the project abstracted the files of eligible persons. Eligible respondents included persons still living within 50 miles of the county who had either 1) filed for divorce, but had not yet received a decree, 2) obtained a divorce decree, or 3) separated and filed (or were filed against) for custody or support. Individuals who were informally separated, but had not sought custody or support, were obtained by the forms of solicitation mentioned above and additionally, through snowball (referral) sampling techniques.

Letters were then sent to possible participants, describing the study and requesting a response. Interviewers attempted to contact by telephone individuals who did not respond, so that interview appointments could be scheduled. Once persons were contacted and agreed to participate, respondents were given the choice of being interviewed in their homes or in the project offices. Babysitters were offered. Interviews ranged from one and one-half to three hours, with a mean length of two hours and fifteen minutes. The interview schedule contained approximately 550 questions.

Nine hundred eighteen eligible respondents were identified in the county. After three follow-up letters and numerous attempts via telephone to contact persons directly, contact was made with 344, or 37 percent of the eligible respondents. Two hundred ten (61 percent) of these persons agreed to be interviewed, and actually completed the interview. Five interviews were discarded after it was determined that persons had been separated for longer than 26 months.

THE IMPACT OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM ON POST-SEPARATION ADJUSTMENT

The present study uses Pearsonian zero-order correlations and multiple regression analysis. Table 1 presents the correlations of satisfaction with the

legal system with the expressive and instrumental indexes. The findings suggest that high satisfaction with the legal system was significantly associated at the .01 level with the respondent reporting a positive relationship with his or her lawyer, and with the respondent reporting satisfaction toward the decisions, the economic issues, in the settlement problems index. However, high satisfaction with the legal system was not significantly associated with the respondent who had not been encouraged by his or her lawyer to create an adversary relationship with his or her former spouse or with the fewer the number of instrumental functions such as child custody with which the respondent was involved.

Insert Table 1 about here

The results of the correlations of adjustment scales with the expressive and instrumental indexes, controlling for high satisfaction with the legal system, appear in Table 2. A respondent who had not been encouraged to create an adversary relationship with his or her former spouse was more likely to report better adjustment to the separation on the Satisfaction with Life Scale than a respondent who had been encouraged to create an adversary relationship with their former spouse. However, the kind of reported relationship with the lawyer was not significantly associated with adjustment to separation. In addition, a respondent reporting satisfaction toward the decisions in the settlement problems index was not more likely to report better adjustment to the separation than a respondent who was not satisfied concerning the settlement problems decisions. The analyses of the data did find that the fewer the number of instrumental functions or economic issues with which the respondent was involved, the better the respondents' reported adjustment to the separation.

Insert Table 2 about here

Table 3 presents the results of the multiple regression with the Life Satisfaction scale for both the respondents with children and respondents without children. For respondents with children (RWC), the adversary relationship index and the settlement problems index were significant at the .01 level. However, for the respondents without children (RWOC), only the settlement problems index was significant at the .05 level. The variance accounted for by the independent variables in the RWC sample was 10 percent and for the RWOC sample 19 percent, both significant at the .05 level.

Insert Table 3 about here

The results of the multiple regression analysis for the Bradburn and Caplovitz Affect Balance Scale are presented in Table 4. For RWC, both age of the respondent and the number of children contributed significantly to the amount of variance accounted for at the .05 level. Age of the respondent (.01), the question Pennsylvania divorce laws prevented the respondent from getting divorced as soon as he or she wanted (.05), satisfaction with the entire legal process (.01), and the settlement problems index (.01) were significant for the RWOC sample. The variance accounted for by the independent variables in the RWC sample was 17 percent, significant at the .01 level, and 25 percent significant at the .05 level for the RWOC sample.

Insert Table 4 about here

Table 5 presents the results of the multiple regression analysis for the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale. For RWC, length of separation and the settlement problems index were both significant at the .05 level. Satisfaction with the entire legal process was significant at the .01 level. The variance accounted for by the independent variables for the RWC sample was 16 percent, significant at the .05 level. The amount of variance accounted for by the independent variables in the RWOC sample was only 4 percent and was not significant.

Insert Table 5 about here

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Encounters with the legal system differ for persons who have experienced a marital separation. Most persons retain an attorney to help them with legal matters pertaining to the separation and divorce. In Pennsylvania, individuals who are separated and wish a court-ordered custody or support agreement must see a domestic relations officer in their county. In addition, most Pennsylvania divorce hearings are conducted by a master, an experienced attorney in the county who makes a recommendation to the judge following the hearing. The judge having jurisdiction may also become involved in matters pertaining to separation, divorce, custody, visitation, support, and property settlements.

The data in the present study indicate that the legal system does affect individuals in many ways. A respondent reporting a positive relationship with his or her lawyer was likely to report being satisfied with the legal system, however, the respondent's adjustment to the separation did not appear to be associated with the kind of relationship with their lawyer. In terms of the expressive functioning of the separated individual, the morale and values, conflict ridden interactions with an outside contact such as the lawyer did not appear to be significantly associated with adjustment to the separation. The impact of the lawyer appears to

be influential during the separation and divorce process, but has little impact in adjusting to a new life situation.

Being encouraged to create an adversary relationship with one's former spouse appears more influential for the expressive functioning of the separated individual than did the relationship with the lawyer. In other words, when the relationship with the husband and wife was conflict ridden, their adjustment to the separation was also negatively affected, unlike where a negative relationship with the lawyer had little affect on the adjustment process. Therefore, the findings suggest that expressive functioning, a stabilizing influence in the family, is more closely associated with significant others such as a spouse, than with an outside contact such as the lawyer. The data suggest that divorce statutes based on an adversary model encourage collusion and dishonesty and do not necessarily enhance adjustment to a new life situation. These findings have ramifications for the type of social policy that may enhance the adjustment to the separation. Indeed, if a separated individual is encouraged to develop an adversary relationship with his or her former spouse, the period of adjustment to the separation may become more difficult and prolonged.

The present data suggest the respondent who reports satisfaction toward the settlement decisions such as custody arrangements, responsibility for the children, support, stability of income, and property settlement, is also likely to report being satisfied with the legal system. However, satisfaction with these decisions is not associated with better adjustment to the separation. These findings suggest that individuals who are satisfied with their speculated financial security from the legal settlement decisions initially report being satisfied with the legal system, but these respondents may find they end up having little or inconsistent financial security. For example, the former spouse may not pay the allotted child support, or perhaps the respondent has discovered that their sole income just does not meet the needed expenses of the family. Consequently,

even though the respondent had agreed to the decisions of the settlement problems, perhaps now those decisions don't make life easier or adjustment to the separation better. Therefore, not only the kinds of decisions made in the legal system regarding the instrumental functions, but also the ultimate functioning of these decisions seems crucial to the adjustment to separation.

Categories of respondents (childless and with children) such as those investigated herein must be researched further. The data in the present study suggest that different groups of individuals cope with the separation and make the adjustment to the separation in different ways. The salience of these findings becomes most important in terms of policy implementation. Perhaps the adversary divorce statutes do not reflect the reality of the marriage and divorce experience, nor are they sensitive to social and psychological needs.

Likewise, further research must be conducted comparing the adjustment process of individuals using adversary divorce statutes and those where a no-fault statute has been implemented. From the results of the present study, the data suggest that not having an adversary relationship with ones former spouse does not ensure that the separated individual will be more satisfied with the legal system; however, the data do suggest that not having an adversary relationship with ones former spouse may enhance the separated individuals adjustment to the separation. These findings are particularly exciting in lieu of potentially changing divorce laws. By implementing no-fault divorce statutes, we may indeed be facilitating the process of adjusting to separation and a new life situation. The importance of such research is further emphasized after considering the increased numbers of individuals involved in the divorce process.

Table 1

CORRELATIONS OF SATISFACTION WITH
EXPRESSIVE AND INSTRUMENTAL INDEXES

SATISFACTION WITH
THE LEGAL SYSTEM

ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIP

$r = -.08$
$R^2 = .007$
N.S.*

LAWYER RELATIONSHIP

$r = -.31$
$R^2 = .094$
$p < .001$

SETTLEMENT PROBLEMS

$r = .17$
$R^2 = .03$
$p < .01$

NUMBER OF INSTRUMENTAL FUNCTIONS

$r = .07$
$R^2 = .005$
N.S.

*N.S.-Not significant at .05 level.

Table 2

CORRELATIONS OF ADJUSTMENT SCALES WITH EXPRESSIVE AND INSTRUMENTAL INDEXES, CONTROLLING FOR HIGH SATISFACTION WITH LEGAL SYSTEM

ADJUSTMENT SCALES	ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIP INDEX	
Satis.[1]	$r = -.21$	$p < .04$
Brad.[2]	$r = .08$	N.S.*
Rosen.[3]	$r = -.06$	N.S.
	LAWYER RELATIONSHIP INDEX	
Satis.	$r = .03$	N.S.
Brad.	$r = -.02$	N.S.
Rosen.	$r = -.15$	$p < .05$
	SETTLEMENT PROBLEMS INDEX	
Satis.	$r = -.01$	N.S.
Brad.	$r = .11$	N.S.
Rosen.	$r = -.02$	N.S.
	NUMBER OF INSTRUMENTAL FUNCTIONS INDEX	
Satis.	$r = -.22$	$p < .01$
Brad.	$r = .001$	N.S.
Rosen.	$r = -.23$	$p < .004$

[1]Satisfaction with Life Scale

[2]Bradburn and Caplovitz Affect Balance Scale

[3]Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale

*N.S.-Not significant at the .05 level.

Table 3

MULTIPLE REGRESSION WITH LIFE SATISFACTION ADJUSTMENT SCALE DEPENDENT AND CERTAIN SELECTED INDEXES AND CHARACTERISTICS COMPARING RESPONDENTS WITH CHILDREN AND THOSE WITHOUT CHILDREN

	RESPONDENTS WITH CHILDREN		
	Simple r	R^2Change	Beta[1]
Length of Separation	.085	.01	.10
Adversary Index	-.13	.02	-.23**
Settlement Problems Index	-.20	.07	-.29**

R^2=.10

Life Satisfaction (F=2.79, p< .05)

[1]Standardized partial regression coefficients

**p< .01

	RESPONDENTS WITHOUT CHILDREN		
	Simple r	R^2Change	Beta[1]
Pennsylvania divorce laws prevented me from getting a divorce as soon as I wanted one	.26	.07	.19
Adversary Index	.25	.05	.19
Settlement Problems Index	-.33	.07	-.28*

R^2=.19

Life Satisfaction (F=3.57, p< .05)

[1]Standardized partial regression coefficients

*p< .05

Table 4

MULTIPLE REGRESSION WITH BRADBURN ADJUSTMENT SCALE DEPENDENT AND CERTAIN SELECTED INDEXES AND CHARACTERISTICS COMPARING RESPONDENTS WITH CHILDREN AND THOSE WITHOUT CHILDREN

	RESPONDENTS WITH CHILDREN		
	Simple r	R^2 Change	Beta[1]
Age of Respondent	-.34	.12	-.48**
Number of Children	-.04	.02	.20*
Gender of Respondent	-.06	.03	- 17
R^2=.17			
Bradburn (F=5.285, p<.01)			

[1]Standardized partial regression coefficients

*p<.05

**p<.01

	RESPONDENTS WITHOUT CHILDREN		
	Simple r	R^2 Change	Beta[1]
Age of Respondent	-.29	.09	-.30**
Pennsylvania divorce laws prevented me from getting a divorce as soon as I wanted one	.16	.03	.23*
How satisfied respondent is with entire legal process	-.15	.04	-.26**
Settlement Problems Index	-.28	.09	-.31**
R^2=.25			
Bradburn (F=3.748, p<.05)			

[1]Standardized partial regression coefficients

*p<.05

**p<.01

Table 5

MULTIPLE REGRESSION WITH ROSENBERG ADJUSTMENT SCALE DEPENDENT AND CERTAIN SELECTED INDEXES AND CHARACTERISTICS COMPARING RESPONDENTS WITH CHILDREN AND THOSE WITHOUT CHILDREN

	RESPONDENTS WITH CHILDREN		
	Simple r	R^2 Change	Beta[1]
Length of Separation	.17	.03	.17*
How satisfied respondent is with entire legal process	-.28	.08	-.32**
Lawyer Relationship Index	-.21	.01	-.14
Settlement Problems Index	-.01	.04	-.22*
R^2=.16			
Rosenberg (F=3.519, $p < .05$)			

[1]Standardized partial regression coefficient

*$p < .05$

**$p < .01$

	RESPONDENTS WITHOUT CHILDREN		
	Simple r	R^2 Change	Beta[1]
Adversary Index	.19	.04	.19
R^2=.04			
Rosenberg (F=1.76, N.S.)			

[1]Standardized partial regression coefficient

N.S.-Not significant at the .05 level.

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